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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/682,038	10/10/2003	Airi Yamada	2185-0710P	7996
2292	7590	10/28/2005	EXAMINER	
<b>BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH &amp; BIRCH</b> PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				HAMILTON, CYNTHIA
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		1752		

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/682,038	YAMADA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Cynthia Hamilton	1752	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2004 and 10 October 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                  2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-12 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

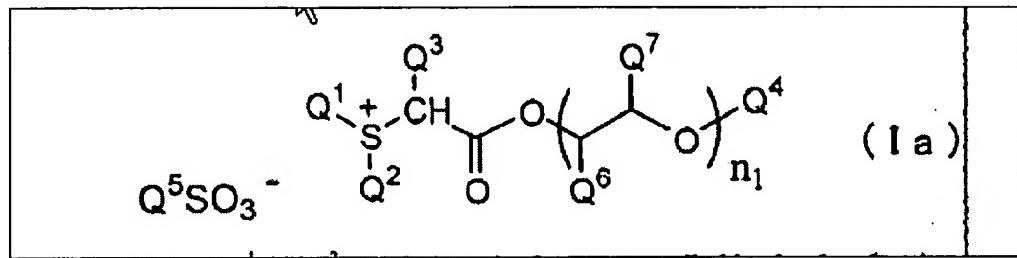
#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claim 1, drawn to a sulfonium salt of the formula (Ia)



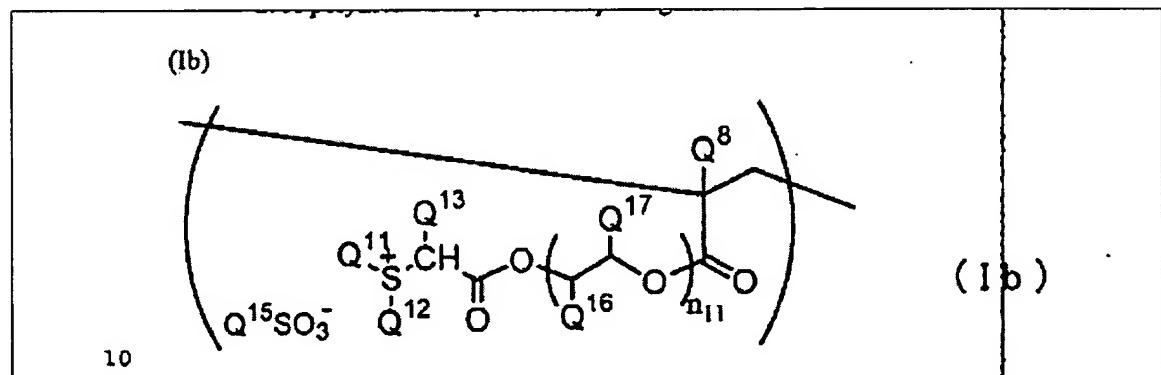
classified in class 549, subclass 79 as illustrated by the sub genus



from page 11 of applicants'

specification.

II. Claim 2, drawn to a polymeric compound comprising the structural unit of the formula



, classified in class 526, subclass 243.

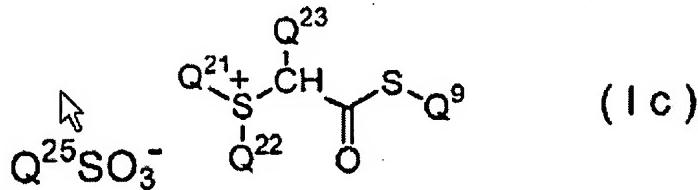
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III. Claims 3-12, drawn to a chemical amplification type positive resist composition, classified in class 430, subclass 270.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the compounds of Group II can be used instead of Group I or the compounds of

a sulfonium salt of the formula (Ic)

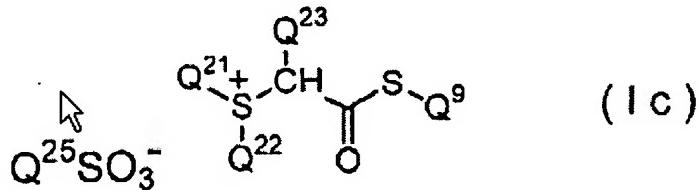


the following structure

The subcombination has separate utility such as a photoacid generator for epoxy resins to form molded compounds with acid generation.

3. Inventions II and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the compounds of Group I can be used instead of Group II or the compounds of

a sulfonium salt of the formula (Ic)



the following structure

The subcombination has separate utility such as a photoacid generator for epoxy resins to form molded compounds with acid generation. The subcombination has separate utility such as a photoacid generator for epoxy resins to form molded compounds with acid generation.

4. Inventions I and II are related as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship. Distinctness is proven for claims in this relationship if the intermediate product is useful to make other than the final product (MPEP § 806.04(b), 3rd paragraph), and the species are patentably distinct (MPEP § 806.04(h)). In the instant case, the intermediate product is deemed to be useful as the acid generator of Group I and the inventions are deemed patentably distinct since there is nothing on this record to show them to be obvious variants. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions anticipated by the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention. Applicants on page 20 of their specification so state as

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follows:

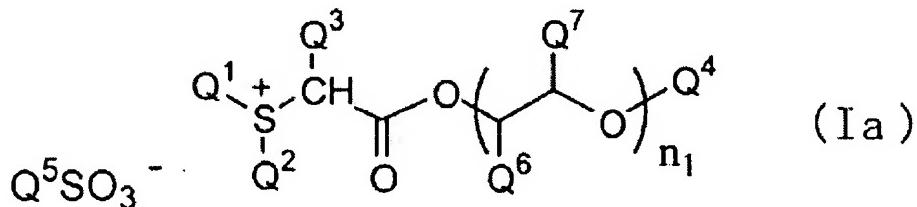
20

Polymer (Ib) can be produced by polymerizing Salt (Ia) or Salt (Ic) having ethylenically unsaturated bond by conventional radical polymerization. The conventional radical polymerization is the polymer obtaining method by mixing a radical initiator such as diazonium compound and acyl peroxide which is easily decomposed to produce radical, and a compound having ethylenically unsaturated bond in a solvent. As the radical initiator, azobisisobutyronitrile, benzoyl peroxide, and the like may be usually used.

Salt (Ia) is found on page 2 and as shown below is essentially the same as that of Group I.

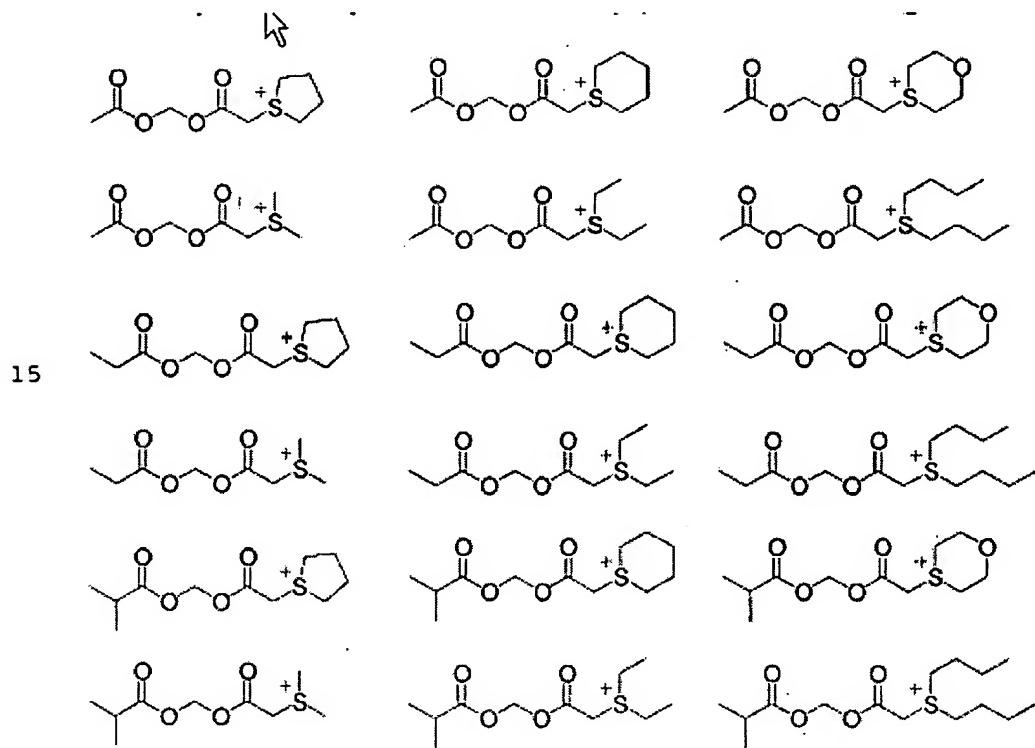
The present invention relates to the followings:

<1> A sulfonium salt of the formula (Ia)

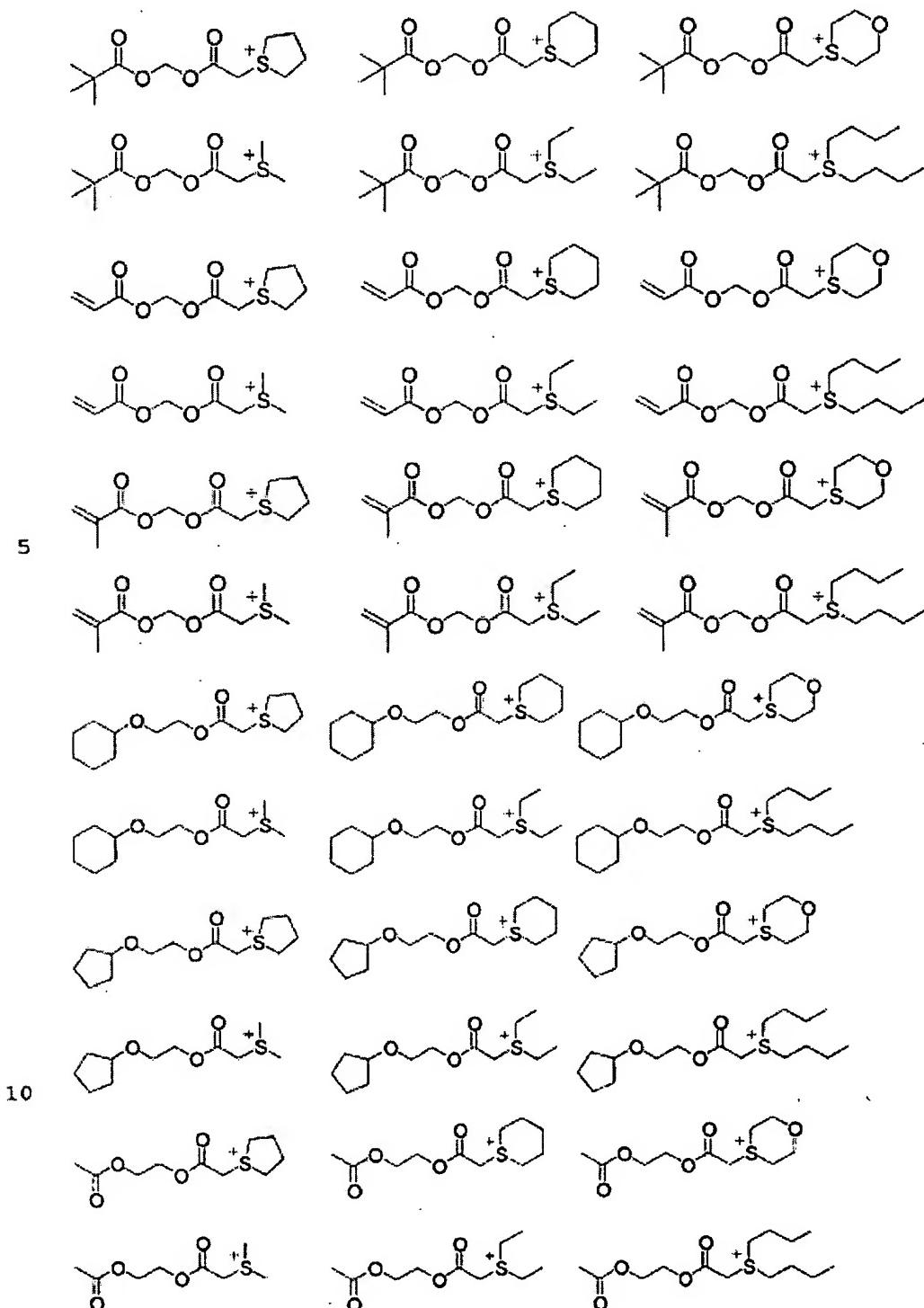


5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
  6. If Group I is elected the following election of species is required.

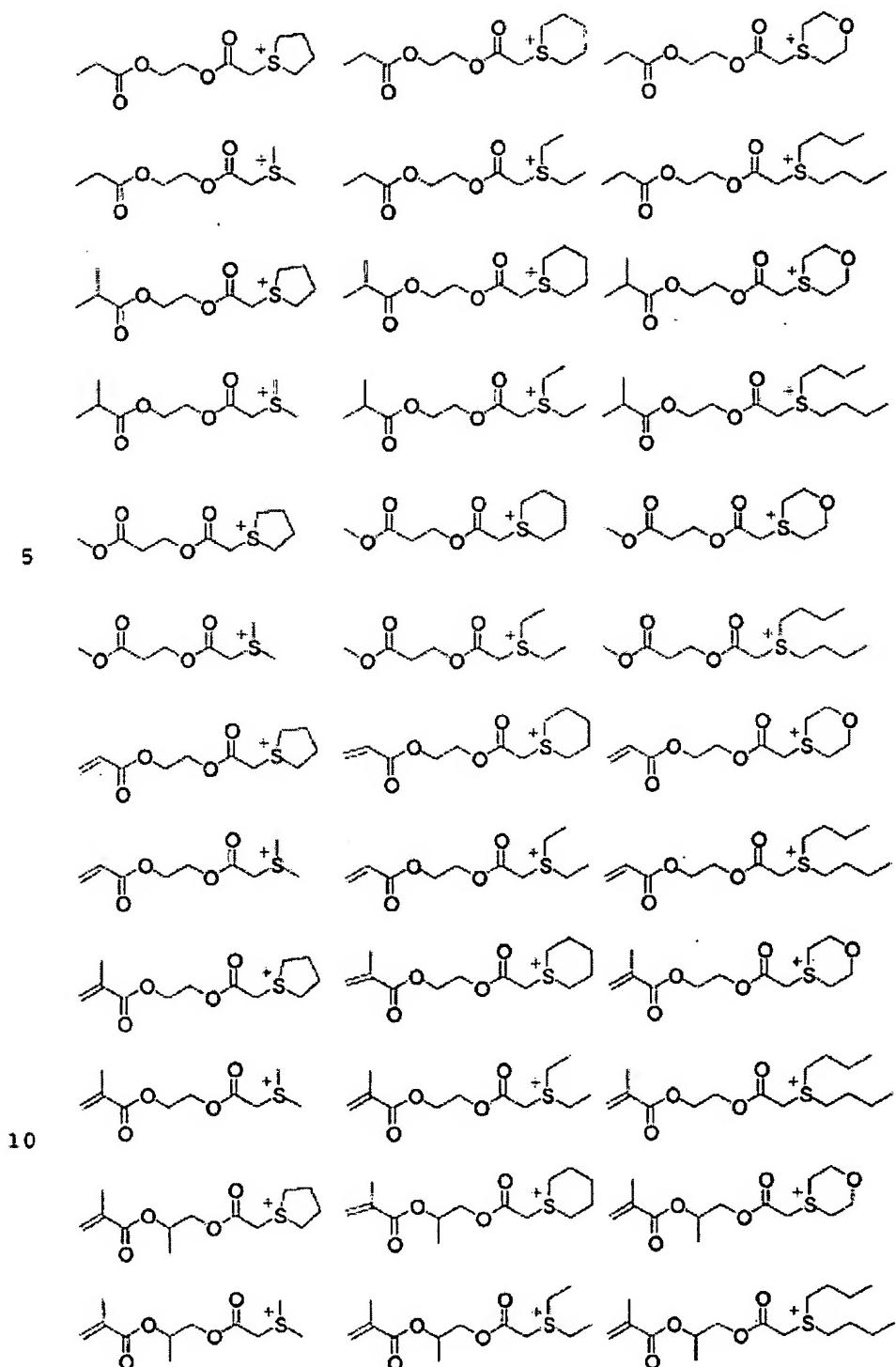
Claim 1 is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising

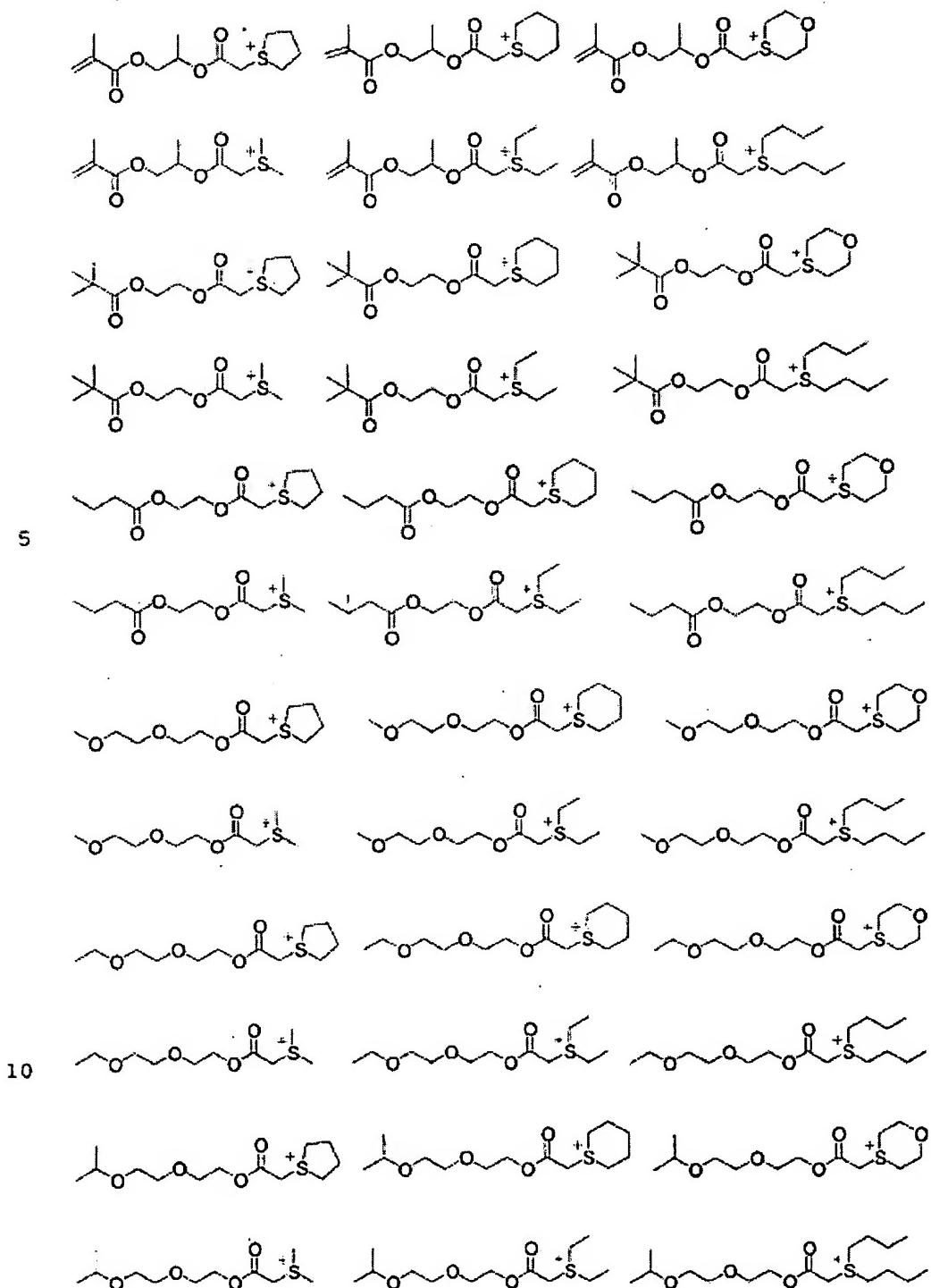


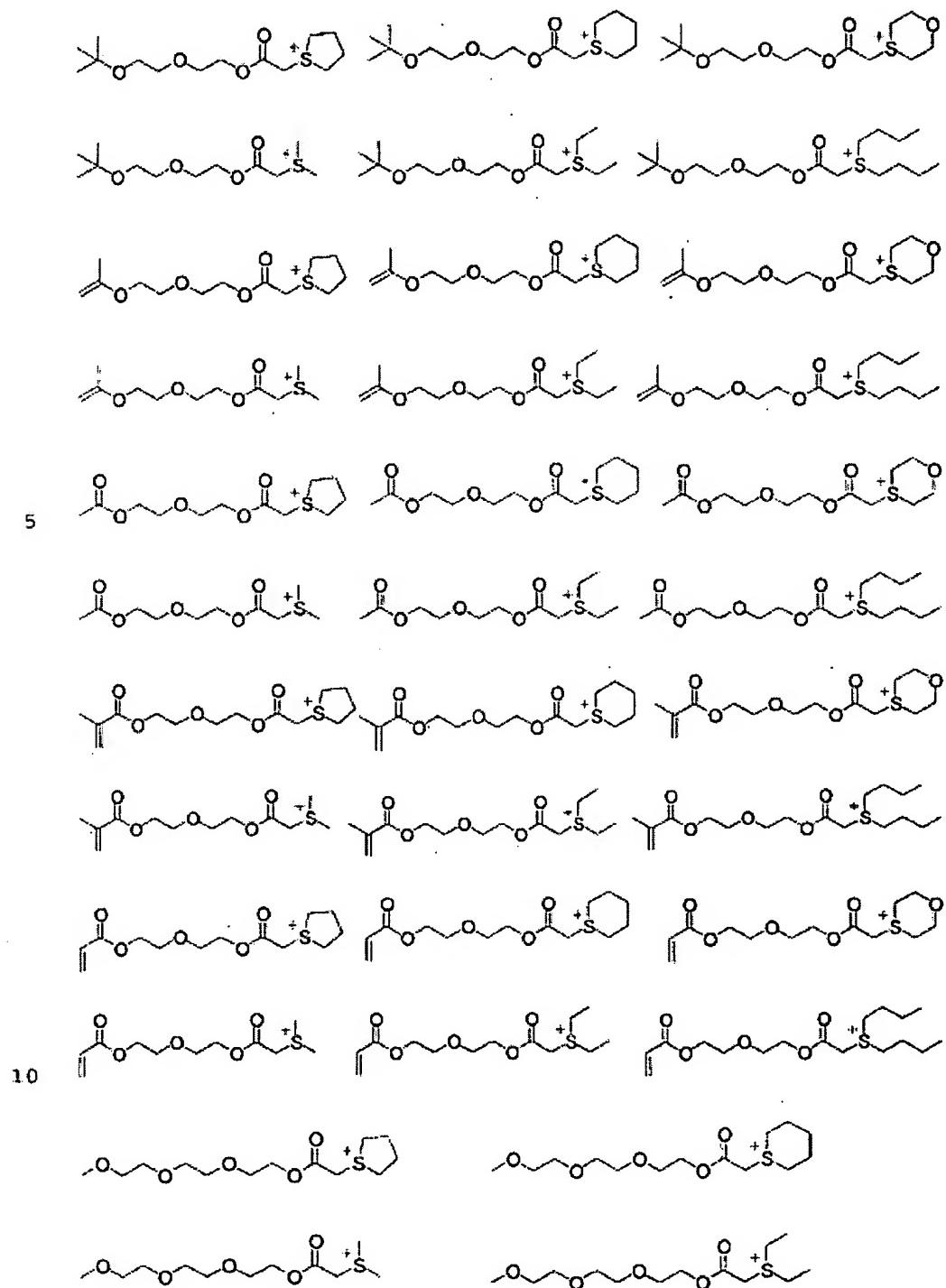
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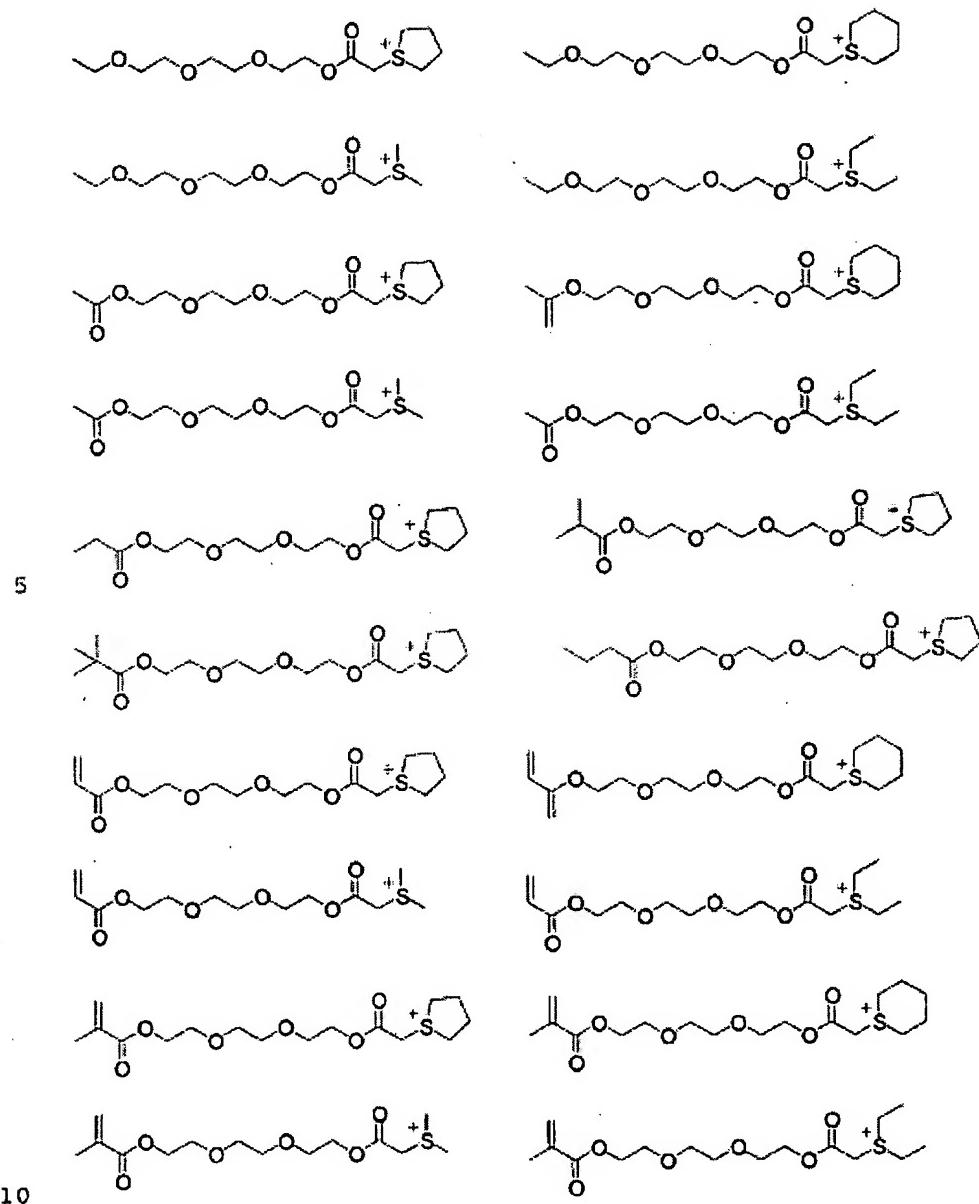
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The examiner notes those in the subgenus with a five membered heterosulfur ring belong in Class 549, subclass 79, those in the subgenus with six membered hetero rings with sulfur atoms belong in Class 549, subclass 427, and those in the subgenus with no hetero ring belong in class 560, subclass 147 wherein the nature of the acid portion of the carboxylic ester governs.

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**Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, even though this requirement is traversed.**

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

7. Due to the complexity of this restriction requirement no attempt was made to obtain a provisional election via telephone. **Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).**

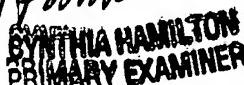
8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cynthia Hamilton whose telephone number is 571-272-1331. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia H. Kelly can be reached on (571) 272-0729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cynthia Hamilton  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1752

October 25, 2005